Key Facts Document
BA (Hons) Architecture

2027/28 Entry

Manchester Metropolitan University

Important information

Length of course:

3 years full-time

Location of course: Manchester

Start dates:
September, 2027

Course costs

Tuition fees for the 2027/28 academic year are still being finalised for all courses. The standard UK and Channel Islands full-time fee will be **£10,050** in academic year 2027/28, subject to parliamentary approval. We expect EU and Non-EU international fees to be confirmed in autumn 2026. All fees stated may be subject to change.

Additional costs

Specialist costs

Workshop and Materials

Included in this section are course materials, software, digital SLR camera, laptop, model making expenses, printing, and 3D printing. None of these modes of production are compulsory, and the manner in which items are acquired can result in significant savings, e.g. the re-use and recycling of available materials in the production of models is encouraged and recommended.

There is some requirement to print, but most submissions are digital.

All materials, printing (2D, 3D), laser cutting, and other similar expenses are charged at cost within the institution. The one-off acquisition of a camera and laptop for the duration of the course is spread evenly across the three years. It is possible to work on university machines and to hire cameras, thus alleviating the costs incurred on some of these items.

Compulsory estimate: 2,400

Optional estimate: 1,400

Placement costs

Where a fieldwork visit is necessary for the curriculum, e.g. a visit to the site a student is working on, the school will cover the costs. An extra-curricular part of the course includes guided international and UK study tours. Costs may vary depending upon location.

Optional estimate: 1500

Other costs

Students may wish to acquire good outdoor clothing, boots and other forms of protective equipment. However, the school can provide PPE for site visits.

Optional estimate: 300

Course content

Year 1

Introduction

In Year 1 you will explore principles in space-making, material expression, brief writing and research supported by technological and historic contexts. You will also participate in our celebrated MSA Live programme, working with real clients in the city.

Core modules

Design 1: Thinking by Making (30 credits)

This module introduces architectural design through a series of practically applied, theoretically grounded projects. Within each project, an iterative design approach intends to focus on communicating an architectural proposal. The emphasis of this module will be on drawing, model-making, and other means of production (collage, video, photography, etc) to foster processes that are new to you at this stage, and to build confidence and architectural aptitude within small peer groups. Formative study skills activities provide a sandpit to test and experiment before exploring their use in a summative design project.

Architectural Context (30 credits)

This module addresses the core knowledge of the history of architecture and offers a global perspective on the most pressing issues for the built environment, understanding

that there are multiple histories and narratives, placed within socio-political contexts, attached to global histories, technological developments, and the current climate emergency.

Design 2: Shaping Concepts (30 credits)

The advancement of critical, inventive, and active thinking is one of the central approaches in this design studio. Each project begins with direct experience to ground concepts of architectural space, programme and material intervention in the city and incrementally builds a knowledge base, with an increasing scope for independent learning and individual response to various architecture briefs, which extend your architectural vocabulary and introduces new architectural considerations to explore, resolve and communicate.

Architectural Production (30 credits)

This module introduces the ways architecture is produced from a technological, environmental and social perspective. Through a series of workshops, it introduces the technological contexts for architectural design and develops your skills in analysis, technical design methodologies and visual representation. It will also introduce you to concepts of participatory action research and design and collaborative working practices. You will take part in MSA Live projects to identify, develop and demonstrate the application of participatory design methods and collaborative practice, using real-world situations.

Year 2

Introduction

In Year 2 your design knowledge will deepen, integrating urban theory and specialist sustainable teaching with increasing complexity, preparing you for your final year of study. We will also broaden your awareness of global issues, resources and alternative technological solutions.

Core modules

Design 3: Transforming Places (30 credits)

This module explores contemporary concerns relevant to architectural culture, within a given context with the potential for transformation. This module addresses global issues relating to architecture through the medium of a small to medium site within a local context

to consolidate previously acquired skills and knowledge.

Architectural Integration (30 credits)

This module emphasises your own design abilities integrating technology and environment, and the ethical and moral implications related to practice, providing a holistic approach to architectural production that links technological performance with social awareness. You will deepen your knowledge and understanding of the environmental, material, and technological contexts, while increasing your cognitive understanding of the basic principles of ethical planning and building.

Design 4: Activating Places (30 credits)

This module gives you an opportunity to deal with issues of global concern, by adding a more overtly client and thematic overlay to tectonically-driven studies of built form. This module provides you with an opportunity to approach a site that is less constrained by physical context and invites you to explore design through alternative modes of thinking, such as spatial agency or other theoretically-driven approaches with the aim of activating a multi-layered built environment.

Architectural Ecosystems (30 credits)

This module expands your focus towards a pragmatic approach to architectural objects and the city, looking at networks (of people and things) that constitute the built environment and beyond, looking at the wider responsibilities of architecture within the sphere of urban studies and with a specific focus on sustainable environmental technologies (passive and active) and considers the design implications of climate emergency. It also looks at a wide range of urban artefacts and develops new methods of understanding their complexity, and the impact beyond the bounds of its own sites.

Year 3

Introduction

In Year 3, you will be guided to direct your own learning and define your own theoretical position. You will evolve a personal design project supported by our unique ‘atelier’ system. You project will be underpinned by the application of history and theory into your Design 5 and Design 6 studio Modules.

You will have more autonomy in Year 3 and therefore have more authority over your own work, which will give you confidence and assuredness as you prepare for the professional environment. We prepare you for practice in industry through employability sessions and events, culminating with the end of year show.

Core modules

Design 5: Strategy (30 credits)

This module empowers you to apply and demonstrate your accumulated knowledge from the previous two years, alongside knowledge gained from the other modules of BA3. It provides methodological themes and contextual lenses for you to propose a design position and proposition. You must demonstrate an awareness and response to the contemporary issues of context response and social engagement.

Architectural Positions (30 credits)

In this module, you have an opportunity to choose a topic of interest from a range of electives. Taught in small groups and aligned to the ongoing research interests of MSA staff, the electives are a collection of tightly-focused investigations into a specific aspect of architectural humanities. This research-led teaching is delivered through innovative methodologies and helps you foster your position in the contemporary debates.

Design 6: Resolution (60 credits)

This module empowers you to apply and synthesise your accumulated knowledge, creating a critical design position and proposition, and a clear endpoint for your degree. The output is a rigorously tested project, including a synthesis of spatial, structural and construction skills, showing your maturity in terms of knowledge integration, innovation, and personally driven professional-built initiatives. The module is designed to get you ready for a close professional future and the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to develop and enhance your career readiness.

Entry requirements

These typical entry requirements may be subject to change for the 2027/28 academic year. Please check back for further details.

UCAS tariff points / Grades required

GCE A-levels - grades AAA or equivalent

A mixture of science/maths and humanities/arts subjects is preferred, but not essential.

Art or Fine Art A-levels are particularly welcomed; however please note applicants with three arts-based subjects (for example Art, Graphics and 3D Design, or Art, Photography and Design and Technology) will not be considered.

General Studies is not considered.

Pearson BTEC National Extended Diploma in either Construction or Engineering – grades DDD

Pearson BTEC National Diploma in either Construction or Engineering – grades DD, in combination with A-level grade A

Pearson BTEC National Extended Certificate in either Construction or Engineering – grade D, in combination with A-levels grades AA

Please note, BTEC Art and Design will not be considered either on its own or in combination with A-levels

Access to Higher Education Diploma in either Humanities subject areas or Construction or Engineering - Overall 60 credits are required with 45 at Level 3 awarded at Distinction level

T level - We do not accept T Levels as entry onto this programme

Specific GCSE requirements

GCSE English Language and Mathematics at grade C or grade 4. *Equivalent qualifications may be considered*

International Baccalaureate points

36 points overall with 6, 6, 6 in higher level subjects

IELTS score required for international students

6.5, with writing 6.5 and no components below 6

Portfolio

We will ask for a portfolio of your work as part of your application.

Additional requirements

Applicants will have to demonstrate their creative and visual awareness by the submission of a digital portfolio and a written statement (via a blog) on request. We also consider other factors, such as other educational achievements, life experience and skills on an individual basis.

Further remarks

For further details on the digital portfolio and written statement requirements please see the MSA website.

Accreditations, Awards and Endorsements

Teaching Excellence Framework 2023-2027
https://tef2023.officeforstudents.org.uk/open-ancillary/?id=26a449ae-dfc4-ee11-9079-0022481b55ca&finaloutcome=5a849a1e-9d53-ee11-be6f-0022481b5210 We have received an overall gold status in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), meaning we're rated as an outstanding university for our student experience.
Award

Royal Institute of British Architects

https://www.architecture.com This course is validated by the Royal Institute for British Architects (RIBA).
Accreditation

National Student Survey 2026 (NSS)
https://www.thestudentsurvey.com/ 92% of students were positive about teaching staff being good at explaining things.

Study and assessment

Ten credits equates to 100 hours of study, which is a combination of lectures, seminars and practical sessions, and independent study. A three-year degree qualification typically comprises of 360 credits (120 credits per year). During the course, you are likely to be

required to engage in collaborative projects, group work activities and to give presentations to your peers/tutors. Some or all of this work may be formally assessed, depending on the course you are studying. The exact composition of your study time and assessments for the course will vary according to your option choices and style of learning, but it could be:

Study

- Year 1 40% lectures, seminars or similar; 60% independent study
- Year 2 40% lectures, seminars or similar; 60% independent study
- Year 3 40% lectures, seminars or similar; 60% independent study

Assessment

- Year 1 100% coursework
- Year 2 100% coursework
- Year 3 100% coursework

Additional information

Teaching staff

Your studies are supported by a department of committed and enthusiastic teachers and researchers, experts in their chosen field.

We often link up with external professionals too, helping to enhance your learning and build valuable connections to the working world.

Details of departmental staff can be found at: www.msa.ac.uk/staff/

Programme review

Our programmes undergo an annual review and major review (normally at 6 year intervals) to ensure an up-to-date curriculum supported by the latest online learning technology. For further information on when we may make changes to our programmes, please see the changes section of our terms and conditions.

Confirmation of regulator

The Manchester Metropolitan University is regulated by the Office for Students (OfS). The OfS is the independent regulator of higher education in England. More information on the

role of the OfS and its regulatory framework can be found on the OfS website.

All higher education providers registered with the OfS must have a student protection plan in place. The student protection plan sets out what students can expect to happen should a course, campus, or institution close. Access our student protection plan.